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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** PROPERTY OWNER/TENANT

**FROM:** UNIFIED COMMAND: Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident

**SUBJECT:** Documentation Package for Residential Sampling and Cleanup resulting from the Fruitland Magnesium Fire

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

The Unified Command for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident in Maywood, Los Angeles County, Calif., was formed to oversee and direct response operations and assessment of hazardous materials in response to the impacts of the fire that began on June 14, 2016, at the recycling facility located at 3570 Fruitland Avenue. The Unified Command is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). Representatives from other state and national health agencies also participated in response efforts, including representatives from the California Department of Toxic Substances and Control and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

As part of the response efforts, residential properties along the north side of E 52<sup>nd</sup> Street between Everett Avenue and Maywood Avenue were assessed and affected properties were cleaned up. All of the residential properties on the north side of E 52<sup>nd</sup> Street were evacuated during the assessment and cleanup in order to ensure the safety of the residents and prevent contamination being spread into your homes. As part of this effort, you signed an Access Agreement allowing EPA and its contractors to conduct assessments of your property and your home, including sampling of soil from the yard(s) and air and dust inside the home, for the presence of fire ash and/or debris released during the fire. Before homes were reoccupied, the Unified Command 1) reviewed the results of the sampling and assessments, 2) determined whether cleaning was necessary for the interior of your home and/or outdoor areas of the property, and 3) conducted the appropriate cleanup activities. If the interior of the home required cleaning, additional air and vacuum samples were collected inside the home to confirm the indoor cleaning activities had been successful. The sampling results were then reviewed and the Los Angeles County Health Officer made the determination if it was safe for you to return to your home.

### **What Are My Results?**

Our agencies followed a detailed evaluation and testing process to ensure that your home is not contaminated with metals that would pose health concern to your family. When you returned to your home, you were shown the data that was used to make the decision for your re-occupancy. That data has now undergone technical review and is being provided to you in this packet. Please review the attached fact sheet which explains the various types of assessments that occurred in and around your home. The attached tables of results are for the sampling conducted inside and outside your home. If

the interior of your home was cleaned, we provided the sampling results conducted before and after cleanup. The screening levels for each contaminant of concern for the air and dust samples are found on the Health Officer Determination page.

If you want to know more about the metals of concern that were found inside the E 52<sup>nd</sup> Street homes, toxicological information is also attached at the end of this package. Photographs of the sampling and outdoor cleanup are also provided for your review.

### **What Happens Next?**

The fire debris at the facility has been covered with soil sealant and filter fabric to prevent ash and dust at the fire-damaged facility from spreading through ambient air as windblown dust. A fence with a geotextile barrier has been constructed around the perimeter of the fire-damaged facility, and the facility has been under 24-hour security surveillance since the fire. These protective measures will be in place until next steps at the facility are taken, either by the owner or agencies. Negotiations are currently underway with the facility owner, and agencies are evaluating the various programs which may be able to assist with cleanup, if the owner cannot properly clean up the property. As the cleanup activities continue on the property where the fire took place, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. Occasionally, you may notice burned metal and other fire debris odors, depending on weather conditions.

Please report odors to the South Coast Air Monitoring District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG. If you have any health concerns, please contact LA County Public Health at 213.738.3220. For questions about the facility cleanup, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or [hafiz.carlin@epa.gov](mailto:hafiz.carlin@epa.gov). (Spanish version contact for EPA- Para preguntas acerca de la limpieza de la instalación en sí, puede hablar con el Coordinador de Participación Comunitaria de la EPA, Alejandro Diaz, al 415.972.3242 o [diaz.alejandro@epa.gov](mailto:diaz.alejandro@epa.gov)).

The Unified Command and the supporting agencies involved in this response effort appreciate your patience and cooperation in this process.